

# INSIGHTS

## Labor Market Information

## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### Economic Indicators

February 2013

	United States	SC
Labor Force	155,524,000	2,179,248
Employed	143,492,000	1,991,575
Unemployed	12,032,000	187,673
Unemployment Rate	7.7%	8.6%

### Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 986.10	\$ 714.86
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.9	42.1
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 24.11	\$ 16.98

### Top Job Growth by MSA

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Myrtle Beach MSA	1.67%	4.08%
Spartanburg MSA	1.22%	3.06%
Anderson MSA	0.83%	0.00%
Columbia MSA	0.71%	0.97%

### Employment to Population Ratio

	2013	2012
U.S. Population Ratio	58.6%	58.6%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.1%	54.0%

### Labor Force Participation Rate

	Feb.	Jan.	% Change
U.S. Participation Rate	63.5%	63.6%	-0.1%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.2%	59.2%	0.0%

### United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	2.0%
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## HIGHLIGHTS

- February unemployment rate down
- Highest level of employed since August 2008
- Job count gains almost 18,000
- Highest non-farm job gains in Government, Leisure & Hospitality and Education/Health Services
- New Section: Employment Status and Trends Index (SCESTI)

View the

[S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Employment  
3,851



Unemployment  
1,324



Unemployment  
Rate 0.1%



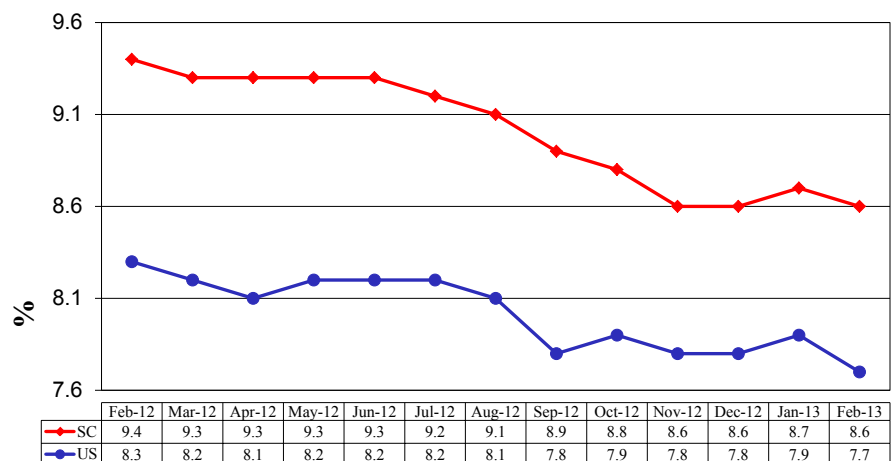
## Unemployment Rate Falls

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased marginally to 8.6 percent in February from January's rate of 8.7 percent. The number of employed people grew for the eighth consecutive month and was estimated at 1,991,575. This is the highest level of employment since August 2008. The number of unemployed people was estimated at 187,673, a decline of 1,324 from January. As a result, monthly labor force estimates moved upward slightly by 2,527 to 2,179,248 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate declined to 7.7% from the 7.8% reported in January.

As the spring season approaches, businesses serving the tourism industry will hire additional staff to support increasing customer demand. Also, as warmer weather approaches construction should see growth. Overall, South Carolina continues to see improvement as the state moves forward.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates  
February 2012 through February 2013 (Seasonally Adjusted)



*Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2012 benchmark.*

## South Carolina Ranked 10th of 51 in February

### State Unemployment Rates

Nevada	9.6
Mississippi	9.6
California	9.6
Illinois	9.5
Rhode Island	9.4
North Carolina	9.4
New Jersey	9.3
Michigan	8.8
Indiana	8.7
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Georgia	8.6
D.C.	8.6
Oregon	8.4
New York	8.4
Pennsylvania	8.1
Connecticut	8.0
Kentucky	7.9
Arizona	7.9
Tennessee	7.8
<b>United States</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Florida	7.7
Washington	7.5
West Virginia	7.3
Maine	7.3
Wisconsin	7.2
Delaware	7.2
Colorado	7.2
Arkansas	7.2
Alabama	7.2
Ohio	7.0
New Mexico	6.8
Missouri	6.7
Maryland	6.6
Massachusetts	6.5
Alaska	6.5
Texas	6.4
Idaho	6.2
Louisiana	6.0
New Hampshire	5.8
Virginia	5.6
Montana	5.6
Minnesota	5.5
Kansas	5.5
Utah	5.2
Hawaii	5.2
Oklahoma	5.0
Iowa	5.0
Wyoming	4.9
Vermont	4.4
South Dakota	4.4
Nebraska	3.8
North Dakota	3.3

Twenty-two states had unemployment rate decreases, 12 states had increases, and 16 states and the District of Columbia had no change, reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **South Carolina** ranked 10th in the nation. Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate decreases from a year earlier, 10 states had increases, and three states had no change. The national jobless rate, 7.7 percent, edged down from January and was 0.6 percentage point lower than in February 2012.

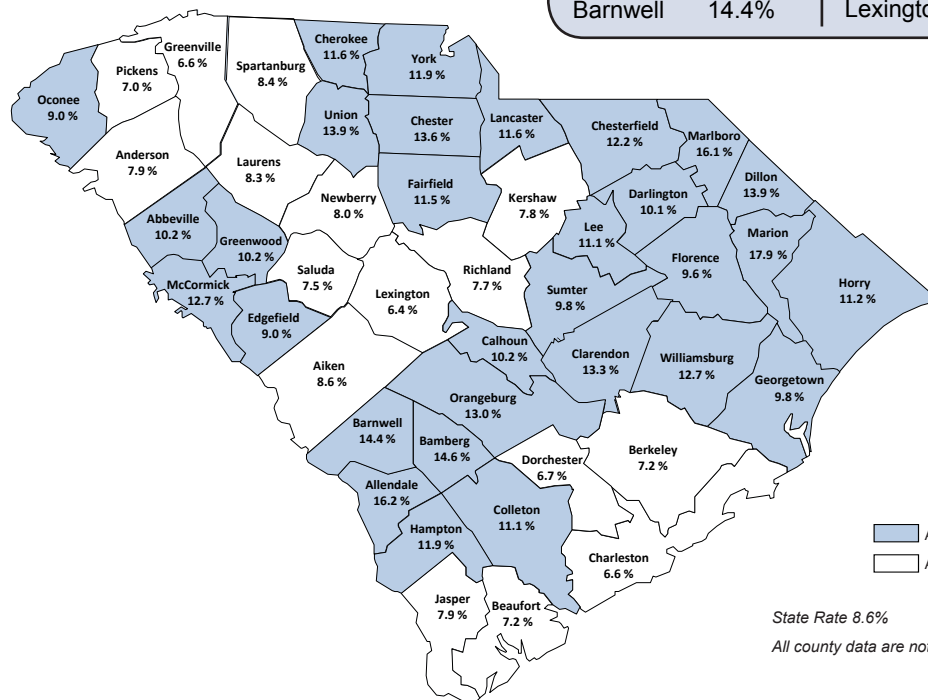
In February 2013, 21 states had statistically significant over-the-month changes in employment, 19 of which were increases. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+80,600) and California (+41,200). The largest two employment decreases occurred in Connecticut (-5,700) and Rhode Island (-2,600).

### February Unemployment Rates by County

Over the month, not seasonally adjusted preliminary county rate estimates decreased in 44 counties across the state. Calhoun County increased slightly and Saluda County remained flat. Lexington County's unemployment rate remained the lowest at an estimated 6.4 percent, while the highest in the state was Marion County at 17.9 percent.

Over the year, county unemployment rate estimates have declined in 45 counties, the largest decline in Fairfield (-2.6 percent) and Allendale (-2.5 percent) counties. Estimates show Beaufort (+5,086), Horry (+4,820), and Spartanburg (+2,598) counties have seen the largest increase in people working since February of 2012.

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Marion	17.9%	Pickens	7.0%
Allendale	16.2%	Dorchester	6.7%
Marlboro	16.1%	Charleston	6.6%
Bamberg	14.6%	Greenville	6.6%
Barnwell	14.4%	Lexington	6.4%



### Employment Changes by County December 2012 through February 2013

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Dec 2012	Jan-Feb 2013	Dec 2012-Jan 2013
Abbeville	9,733	9,638	9,637	95	1
Aiken	70,303	70,244	70,370	59	-126
Allendale	2,713	2,694	2,656	19	38
Anderson	77,445	77,114	77,965	331	-851
Bamberg	4,994	4,947	4,905	47	42
Barnwell	7,190	7,128	7,094	62	34
Beaufort	60,382	59,760	59,668	622	92
Berkeley	78,911	78,559	78,662	352	-103
Calhoun	6,007	5,975	5,986	32	-11
Charleston	164,741	164,006	164,221	735	-215
Cherokee	22,388	22,149	22,151	239	-2
Chester	12,841	12,773	12,741	68	32
Chesterfield	16,612	16,499	16,411	113	88
Clarendon	10,589	10,527	10,435	62	92
Colleton	15,089	14,960	14,877	129	83
Darlington	27,291	27,200	27,122	91	78
Dillon	11,119	11,022	10,910	97	112
Dorchester	64,510	64,223	64,307	287	-84
Edgefield	10,180	10,171	10,189	9	-18
Fairfield	9,317	9,267	9,286	50	-19
Florence	57,053	56,863	56,700	190	163
Georgetown	26,535	26,277	26,215	258	62
Greenville	211,237	210,146	211,999	1,091	-1,853
Greenwood	27,665	27,353	27,322	312	31
Hampton	6,791	6,729	6,669	62	60
Horry	110,486	109,043	110,553	1,443	-1,510
Jasper	9,740	9,639	9,625	101	14
Kershaw	27,219	27,074	27,127	145	-53
Lancaster	28,723	28,527	28,492	196	35
Laurens	27,586	27,444	27,686	142	-242
Lee	7,134	7,101	7,011	33	90
Lexington	125,561	124,889	125,137	672	-248
McCormick	2,940	2,912	2,895	28	17
Marion	9,462	9,386	9,323	76	63
Marlboro	9,657	9,610	9,511	47	99
Newberry	16,848	16,743	16,607	105	136
Oconee	28,795	28,533	28,521	262	12
Orangeburg	34,893	34,532	34,313	361	219
Pickens	52,998	52,724	53,189	274	-465
Richland	167,722	166,824	167,156	898	-332
Saluda	8,298	8,254	8,270	44	-16
Spartanburg	125,492	124,517	125,522	975	-1,005
Sumter	40,042	40,004	39,872	38	132
Union	9,925	9,824	9,820	101	4
Williamsburg	13,003	12,899	12,798	104	101
York	101,556	101,802	102,198	-246	-396

## South Carolina Employment Trends

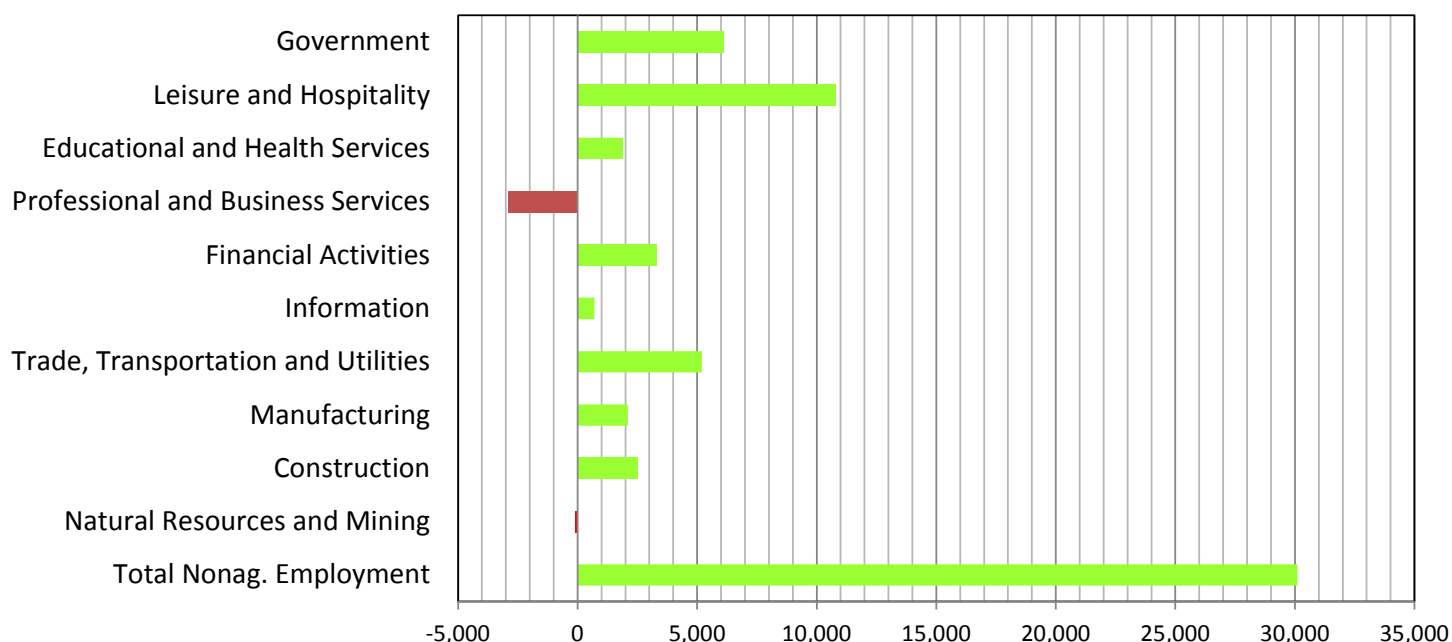
Non-seasonally adjusted payrolls for February increased by 17,900 jobs, more than doubling historic gains to 1,857,600. Industries experiencing growth were Government (+8,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+4,100); Education and Health Services (+3,800); Professional and Business Services (+2,300); Construction (+900); Financial Activities (+700); Information (+500); and Manufacturing (+300). Government gains were primarily driven by public schools and universities poised for the spring term. Education and Health saw increases due to private school students returning, as well as increased demand for health care and social assistance. Leisure and Hospitality marked a rise in accommodation and food services demand. Professional Business Services saw increased demand in employment services during the course of the month. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities fell (-2,300) as the Retail Trade, Transportation and Warehousing subsectors declined, while Wholesale Trade remained flat for the month. The Repair and Maintenance subsector of Other Services (-400) along with Residual Services subsector dragged down the entire sector into a monthly decline; and Mining and Lodging noted no change.

Over the year, the estimated non-farm jobs in the state were up 30,100. Industries leading the 12-month gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+10,800), Government (+6,100), Trade Transportation and Utilities (+5,200), Financial Activities (+3,300), Construction (+2,500), Manufacturing (+2,100), Education and Health Services (+1,900), Information (+700), and Other Services (+500). Professional and Business Services (-2,900), Mining and Logging (-100) declined.

Growth in the Metropolitan Statistical Areas during the year has been strongest in Myrtle Beach (+4,300) Spartanburg (+3,700), Columbia (+3,400), Charleston (+3,400), and Greenville (+2,900). Florence (+700), and Sumter (+300) have seen modest gains. Anderson has been flat.

Survey estimates indicate the state's average weekly manufacturing hours increased by 0.6 hours over the month. Hourly wages decreased by \$0.06. Over the year, hours have been flat with wages increasing by \$0.39 per hour.

### South Carolina Job Changes by Industry February 2012 - February 2013



## South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index

The South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index is aggregated from a group of economic indicators. An economic index is a measure of the alternating waves of economic expansion and contraction in an economy. Economic indexes are widely used by prominent financial and economic organizations over the world to identify the status and trend of a national or local economy. One of the major advantages of an index over single indicators is that an index has the power to combine the 'strength' of all its components and filter out 'noises,' so that the underlying trends can be shown more clearly and forecasting is made possible.

In an effort to monitor and forecast South Carolina's employment situation, the South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) was constructed. Since the goal of the SCESTI is to forecast the employment situation, a methodology of leading economic indexes was selected for the main index, and was named The Employment Leading Index; while a coincident index called, The Employment Coincident Index was constructed concurrently, to support the main index, by accounting for the current employment situation. Typically, leading indexes provide an indication of the behavior of the dependent variable, here the employment situation for the upcoming three to six months.

The Leading Index aggregates five leading employment indicators:

1. **South Carolina Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance**  
(Source: U.S. Department of Labor)
2. **The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine (HWOL) Data Series**  
(Source: The Conference Board)
3. **South Carolina Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours**  
(Source: U.S. Department of Labor)
4. **National Consumer Confidence Index**  
(Source: The Conference Board)
5. **The National Employment Trend Index**  
(Source: The Conference Board)

The Coincident Index consists of four components:

1. **South Carolina Unemployment Rate** (Source: U.S. Department of Labor)
2. **South Carolina Retail Sales** (Source: SC Department of Revenue)
3. **South Carolina Total Nonfarm Employment** (Source: U.S. Department of Labor)
4. **South Carolina Civilian Labor Force** (Source: U.S. Department of Labor)

Five procedures are then applied to each of the components to form the index:

1. Month-to-month change calculation
2. Standardization for volatility removal
3. Summation of changes of all components into one variable
4. Index computation
5. Index re-base

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The completed SCESTI is a line chart indicating monthly values that start from January 2000, when the value is set to 100, providing a baseline for the index. The index is updated each month, when the new data of all the index components are released. A thorough analysis is then performed on the updated index chart, and the result is published in a concise commentary along with the new index chart.

By studying the commentary and the index chart, policy makers, business leaders, and the public will be able to gain insights into where the employment situation in South Carolina is heading in the next four to six months, so that sound decisions can be made.

## February Employment Status and Trend Index

The South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) jumped 0.36 points in February after a 0.13 point drop in January. Standing at 100.20, SCESTI has reached a level it has not seen since July of 2007. Contributing to this month's index increase is an across-the-board improvement of all the index components led by a more than 37 percent decline of the SC Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance and a more than 16 percent climb of the Conference Board's US Consumer Confidence Index. All other index components, Manufacturing Average Weekly Hours, Conference Board's SC Help Wanted Online Adds and Conference Board's US Employment Trend Index, managed gains ranging from 1.1 to 1.5 percent. February's rise of the SCESTI is significant not only because of its size, but also because it is the 42nd consecutive month (since August, 2009) SCESTI stays above its 12 month moving average, which strongly indicates a continued improvement of South Carolina's employment situation for the upcoming four to six months.

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index

